

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
8:30AM, Monday, January 6, 2020
West Tisbury School**

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Present: Chair – Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
FinComs – Chilmark – Rob Hanneman, WT – Greg Orcutt,
Towns – WT Accountant – Bruce Stone,
Press – Heidi Carter – MVTV, Will Sennott – Vineyard Gazette,
Recorder: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item #II)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget (See documents on file.) (Agenda item #II)

After considerable thought Alex Salop objected to the creation of a Reserve Line (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.1-2 #III) as a redundant mechanism that inflated the budget.

- The current budget provided flexibility through UIRSC voted transfers and transparency with monthly reporting.
- There had been few emergency events and none that could not be covered by transfers during the 45 day Excess and Deficiency (E & D) waiting period.
- The proposed Special Education Stabilization Fund would hopefully cover the most prevalent form of unforeseen costs. The UIRSD facilities were in reasonable shape.
- The Reserve Fund would be less transparent as it did not require a vote to spend. Any remaining reserve funds would be returned to the Towns and revert to Free Cash which was less accountable than the promised Other Post Employee Benefit (OPEB) E & D commitment (see Minutes: 12/16/19 p.1 #II, & 4/4/16 p.2).

* Roxanne Ackerman entered the meeting at 8:45AM.

• *ALEX SALOP MOVE TO REVISIT AND RESCIND DECEMBER 5, 2019 MOTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE LINE; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

- There was a discussion on whether to return E & D to the Towns or commit it to the OPEB Trust—which had to be done 45 days before the end of a fiscal year—the amount to be committed to be debated at a later date.

- Roxanne Ackerman emphasized Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 71 and advocating the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for a less cumbersome spending process.

• *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO REVISIT AND RESCIND THE DECEMBER 16, 2019 MOTION ON RESERVE LINE RESIDUAL DEDICATION TO THE OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST AND E & D AND THE COMMITMENT OF EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY TO THE BUDGET; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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- There was some confusion over whether to vote the FY21 Budget but Roxanne Ackerman again requested an Executive Session on Administrative contracts. Skipper Manter challenged the Executive Session.
- West Tisbury School (WTS) Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt reported the following changes/reductions for salary/benefits savings:
 - elimination of the 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Math/Science teacher position;
 - expansion of the Special Education (SpEd) from 0.75 to 1.0 FTE (no additional OPEB costs);
 - addition of a 0.5 Education Support Professional (ESP) without benefits.
- The Budget would rise \$8,000 due the elimination of the \$100,000 Reserve line offset by the \$108,000 E & D commitment.
- Transportation went up to \$35,333 per run (from \$18,000 per run).
- The FY21 Budget was projected at 5.02% with the possibility of the following warrant articles:
 - WTS proactive roof design (see 9/16/19 Minutes p.3 #E);
 - phase II of the Chilmark School windows (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.4 #III);
 - creation of a SpEd Stabilization fund (see 12/16/19 Regular Minutes p.2 #V F);
 - WTS School Resource Officer (SRO) (see 12/16/19 Budget Minutes p.2).
- The UIRSC discussed the proposed SpEd Stabilization Fund language and 2% cap (of the total operating Budget (about \$250-260,000 for FY21 proposed) allowing for increased costs and banking of Circuit Breaker funds. Funds could only be expended with UIRSC and the three Boards of Selectmen approval.
 - Head of Chilmark School Susan Stevens had requested \$13,000 total for two curriculum units (see 12/16/19 Regular Minutes p.2 #V F).
 - Skipper Manter supported a SpEd Stabilization fund but was against using Circuit Breaker as a funding source as it would affect taxes and had already been expended in the initial year of the residential tuition.
 - Funding sources could also include E & D with the requisite 45 day waiting period.
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO SUBMIT WARRANT ARTICLES TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND WITH A CAP OF 2% OF THE TOTAL FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET AS SUBMITTED; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY—SKIPPER MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- *SKIPPER MANTER MOVED TO SUBMIT WARRANT ARTICLES ON THE CHILMARK SCHOOL WINDOWS AND THE WEST TISBURY SCHOOL ROOF DESIGN AS PROPOSED; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- In a brief general budget discussion: Mr. Manter noted about WTS 360 students and protested the UIRSD to be administratively top-heavy. Alex Salop considered the Administrators to have presented a competent, pared-down budget, given unavoidable costs such as transportation and contractual obligations. Thanks went to the Administration for the reduction in the WTS Middle School expansion.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None (Agenda Item #IV)

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Adjournment

- *KATE DEVANE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 9:43AM; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Meetings/Events

- MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, January 6, 2020 – MVRHS
- UIRSC/Budget Hearing/Certification – 5:00PM, Monday, January 27, 2020–

Chilmark

- MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, February 3, 2020 – MVRHS

Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/6/20
- Sign In Sheet 1/6/20
- Argument Against a Reserve Budget Line (2 p.)
- Article: Establishment of Special Education Stabilization Fund
- UIRSD FY2021 Assessment – Draft #4, January 6, 2020
- Up-Island Regional School District FY21 General Fund Budget – Draft #4, January 6, 2020 (14 p.)
- Up-Island Regional School District Employee List for 2019-2020 for FY21 Budgeting Purposes Draft #4 1/6/2020 (4 p.)

Minutes approved as amended 1/27/20